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ABSTRACT

This anthology of personal narratives and excerpts from memoirs and autobiographies is seen as a companion to the earlier anthology, "Imagining America: Stories from the Promised Land." While focusing on nonfiction, this book continues the exploration of emigration to and migration within the United States in the 20th century. However, the scope of this volume has expanded beyond the specific tensions of being an American with an embattled past and present to include personal essays addressing historical moments that have defined U.S. life during this century. Selections include: (1) "The Ghost Dance War" (Charles Alexander Eastman); (2) "Of the Black Belt" (W. E. B. Du Bois); (3) "Leaves from the Mental Portfolio of an Eurasian" (Sui Sin Far); (4) "The Myth That Made Hollywood" (Anzia Yezierska); (5) "Echoes of the Jazz Age" (F. Scott Fitzgerald); (6) "Choosing a Dream: Italians in Hell's Kitchen" (Mario Puzo); (7) "From 'America is in the Heart'" (Carlos Bulosan); (8) "To Begin With" (Vivian Gornick); (9) "The Making of a Writer: From The Poets in the Kitchen" (Paule Marshall); (10) "Split at the Root: An Essay on Jewish Identity" (Adrienne Rich); (11) "From 'A Native Hill'" (Wendell Berry); (12) "From 'The Names'" (N. Scott Momaday); (13) "Pearl Harbor Echoes in Seattle" (Monica Stone); (14) "The Messenger of the Lost Battalion" (Gregory Orfalea); (15) "Going Home: Brooklyn Revisited" (Barbara Grizzuti Harrison); (16) "Suburbs" (Geoffrey O'Brien); (17) "Silent Dancing" (Judith Ortiz Cofer); (18) "Love Me or Leave Me" (Bharati Mukherjee); (19) "From 'The Woman Warrior'" (Maxine Hong Kingston); (20) "2G" (Sonia Pilcer); (21) "A Book-Writing Venture" (Kim Yong Ik); (22) "'I Can't Stand Your Books': A Writer Goes Home" (Mary Gordon); (23) "From 'Lost in Translation: A Life in a New Language'" (Eva Hoffman); (24) "From 'Hunger of Memory'" (Richard Rodriquez); (25) "'Tomorrow is for Our Martyrs'" (James Farmer); (26) "The White Album" (Joan Didion); (27) "From 'Born on the Fourth of July'" (Ron Kovic); (28) "From 'No Name in the Street'" (James Baldwin); (29) "Amerka, Amerka: A Palestinian Abroad in the Land of the Free" (Anton Shammas); (30) "Like Mexicans" (Gary Soto); (31) "Report from the Bahamas" (June Jordan); (32) "Immigrant Waves" (Michael Stephens); (33) "Homesick" (Jessica

Hagedorn); (34) "Two Cuban Dissidents: Heberto Padilla and Belkis Cuza Male" (Pablo Medina); (35) "From 'Hunting Mister Heartbreak: A Discovery of America'" (Jonathan Raban); and (36) "The Solace of Open Spaces" (Gretel Ehrlich). (EH)

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